

Tringa flavipes (Lesser Yellowlegs)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Scolopacidae (Curlews, Dowitchers, Godwits, Knots, Phalaropes, Sandpipers, Snipe, Yellowlegs, And Woodcock)

General comments:

Signals of a substantial long and short term decline are evident in a variety of datasets including migration and winter counts. Species experiencing significant regional short term (10 yr) and long term (30 yr) declines (Andres et al. 2012. Wader Study Group Bull 119:(3)).

Species Conservation Range Maps for Lesser Yellowlegs:

Town Map: [Tringa flavipes Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Tringa flavipes HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines:

Lesser Yellowlegs is currently undergoing steep population declines, which has already led to, or if unchecked is likely to lead to, local extinction and/or range contraction.

Notes:

Signals of a substantial long and short term decline are evident in a variety of datasets including migration and winter counts. Species experiencing significant regional short term (10 yr) and long term (30 yr) declines (Andres et al. 2012. Wader St

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Lesser Yellowlegs:

Formation Name	Cliff & Rock
Macrogroup Name	Rocky Coast
Habitat System Name:	Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast Notes: <i>roosting habitat</i>
Habitat System Name:	North Atlantic Cobble Shore Notes: <i>feeding and roosting habitat</i>
Formation Name	Freshwater Marsh
Macrogroup Name	Emergent Marsh
Habitat System Name:	Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh Notes: <i>feeding and roosting habitat</i>
Macrogroup Name	Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh
Habitat System Name:	Introduced Wetland and Riparian Vegetation Notes: <i>feeding</i>
Formation Name	Intertidal
Macrogroup Name	Intertidal Mudflat
Habitat System Name:	Freshwater Tidal Marsh Notes: <i>feeding and roosting habitat</i>
Habitat System Name:	Non-Vascular Mudflat Notes: <i>feeding habitat</i>

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Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Tidal Marsh (peat-forming)

Habitat System Name: Acadian Coastal Salt Marsh Notes: feeding habitat

Habitat System Name: Coastal Plain Tidal Marsh Notes: feeding and roosting habitat

Stressors Assigned to Lesser Yellowlegs:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Lack of knowledge**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**Notes:** Need to determine if causes of population decline are occurring in Maine.**IUCN Level 1 Threat** Residential and Commercial Development**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Housing and Urban Areas**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Can mitigate impacts through environmental permit review recommendations.**IUCN Level 1 Threat** Climate Change and Severe Weather**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Habitat Shifting or Alteration**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** Loss of salt marsh and other coastal habitats due to sea level rise. Reversibility depends on ability of salt marsh and other coastal habitats to migrate inland as sea level rise occurs.**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Storms and Flooding**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** Loss of coastal feeding and roosting habitats due to flooding and erosion. Some impacts may be minimized through environmental review recommendations.**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Temperature Extremes**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** Potential loss of intertidal invertebrate prey base from increasing ocean temperatures.**Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Lesser Yellowlegs:**

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
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To determine if recent population declines are due to impacts occurring in Maine, conduct research to: identify food quality and quantity at lesser yellowleg staging areas; assess premigration body condition; length of stay; other potential limiting

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

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Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
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Survey inland wetlands to identify and map important inland staging areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Housing and Urban Areas

Conservation Actions Associated with the Shorebirds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Identify and map priority feeding and roosting areas including offshore habitats, and implement protection initiatives. Enter data in IFW ETSC database.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge, Industrial and Military Effluents, Housing and Urban Areas, Tourism and Recreational Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
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Place symbolic stake and twine fencing around important beach roosting areas with signage to identify roosting areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities, Tourism and Recreational Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Work with the Maine Department of Marine Resources to conduct research to determine the impact of macroalgae harvest on wintering waterfowl

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Provide outreach to pet owners, beachgoers, kayakers, beach managers, and landowners to raise public awareness on shorebirds and on the impacts of disturbance from recreational activities in coastal areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
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Use voluntary agreements, conservation easements, conservation tax abatements and incentives to protect important habitats

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Work and Other Activities, Recreational Activities, Housing and Urban Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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To determine population status continue monitoring program for SGCN shorebird species at high priority migration sites coastwide. Continue to coordinate with ISS, PRISM, Atlantic Flyway ESMP programs.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Identify prey resources in significant staging areas to determine potential limiting factors and optimal management techniques to promote these resources.

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Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Determine length of stay at stopover areas, site fidelity, local movements and premigration condition to determine if coastal habitats are meeting shorebird requirements for successful migration.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
Determine limiting factors for SGCN shorebird species on breeding, migratory, or wintering areas.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
Gain a better understanding of the extent and impacts of algae harvesting on staging and wintering shorebirds. Conduct longterm monitoring of ecosystem-wide impacts of cutting algae to determine potential impacts to shorebird habitats and invertebrate pr			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.